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By the 6th grade, many girls lose interest in math and science. So next time your daughter wants to play, math is always a great addition!

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Board asked to force opening of Lila Canyon Mine

By Mike Gorrell
The Salt Lake Tribune

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UtahAmerican Energy Inc. formally asked the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining on Thursday to intervene and force state mining regulators to issue the company a permit to open the Lila Canyon Mine in the Book Cliffs.

The company had informed the state Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in November that it was tired of waiting for permit approval and would file a legal challenge against the state if the process were not completed in 45 days. That deadline later was extended to March 5.

The board probably will address the issue at its April meeting.

Division officials contend that they cannot issue the permit until the company's application is complete, and that it is not. Agency spokesman Jim Springer said the division is waiting for a couple of American Indian tribes to respond to a cultural resources study. Those responses are expected soon, he added, figuring that the permit application could be submitted to the federal Office of Surface Mining and the U.S. Department of Interior within the next month.

This is the second time the board has been asked to intervene.

In 2001, the board overturned a division decision to approve a permit for the mine, filed by its then-owner, Andalex Resources Inc. The board was responding to an appeal by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, whose opposition to the mine has not abated.

UtahAmerican Energy said the proposed underground mine could yield about 7 million tons of coal annually and would employ about 300 people.

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